

**In the Specification**

Please delete the paragraph beginning at line beginning at line 14, page 11, and ending at line 24, page 11, and replace it with the following paragraph:

-- A nine amino acid peptide CHEASAAQC (SEQ ID NO.: 1, designated CHEC-9 or CH-QC9) has been identified, synthesized and used to promote survival of neural cells in vitro and invivo, including after cerebral cortex injury. The peptide rescues neurons that would usually shrink, die or disintegrate following traumatic brain damage. Furthermore, the peptide possesses demonstrable phospholipase A2 inhibitory activity, and therefore has utility as a modulator of inflammation. A CHEC-9 peptide variant having the sequence CAHAQAESC (SEQ ID NO.: 2) also promotes survival of neural cells --